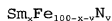


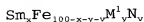
# Claims:

1. A flaky, isotropic SmFeN powdery magnet material prepared by roll-quenching a molten alloy and nitriding the alloy powder thus obtained to form a magnet alloy; characterized in that the magnet alloy has an alloy composition of the formula, by atomic %:



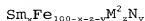
wherein  $7 \leq x \leq 12$  and  $0.5 \leq v \leq 20$ ; that the crystal structure is TbCu<sub>7</sub> type; and that the thickness of the flakes is 10-40 $\mu\text{m}$ .

2. A flaky, isotropic SmFeN powdery magnet material prepared by roll-quenching a molten alloy and nitriding the alloy powder thus obtained to form a magnet alloy; characterized in that the magnet alloy has an alloy composition of the formula, by atomic %:



wherein M<sup>1</sup> is at least one member selected from the group consisting of Hf and Zr;  $7 \leq x \leq 12$ ,  $0.1 \leq y \leq 1.5$ , and  $0.5 \leq v \leq 20$ ; that the crystal structure is TbCu<sub>7</sub> type; and that the thickness of the flakes is 10-40 $\mu\text{m}$ .

3. A flaky, isotropic SmFeN powdery magnet material prepared by roll-quenching a molten alloy and nitriding the alloy powder thus obtained to form a magnet alloy; characterized in that the magnet alloy has an alloy composition of the formula, by atomic %:



wherein  $M^2$  is at least one member selected from the group consisting of Si, Nb, Ti, Ga, Al, Ta and C;  $7 \leq x \leq 12$ ,  $0.1 \leq z \leq 1.0$  and  $0.5 \leq v \leq 20$ ; that the crystal structure is TbCu<sub>2</sub> type; and that the thickness of the flakes is 10-40  $\mu\text{m}$ .

4. A powdery magnet material according to one of claims 1 to 3, wherein up to 30 at.% of Sm is substituted with Ce.

5. A powdery magnet material according to one of claims 1 to 3, wherein up to 30 at.% of Sm is substituted with a rare earth metal other than Ce.

6. A powdery magnet material according to one of claims 1 to 5, wherein up to 35 at.% of Fe is substituted with Co.

7. A powdery magnet material according to one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the average crystal grain size of the material is 10nm to 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

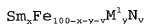
8. A powdery magnet material according to one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the magnet powder has an intrinsic coercive force of 7 kOe or higher.

9. A process for preparing a flaky, isotropic SmFeN powdery magnet material recited in claim 1; which comprises the steps of combining and melting alloy components to form an alloy composition of the formula, by atomic %:



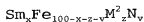
wherein  $7 \leq x \leq 12$ , and  $0.5 \leq v \leq 20$ ; and the crystal structure being TbCu<sub>2</sub> type; spilling the molten alloy on a quenching roll or rolls which rotate at a peripheral speed of 30-45 m/sec., annealing the flaky powder thus obtained in an inert atmosphere at a temperature of 500-900°C; and then nitriding the annealed powder.

10. A process for preparing a flaky, isotropic SmFeN powdery magnet material recited in claim 2; which comprises the steps of combining and melting alloy components to form an alloy composition of the formula, by atomic %:



wherein M<sup>1</sup> is at least one member selected from the group consisting of Hf and Zr;  $7 \leq x \leq 12$ ,  $0.1 \leq y \leq 1.5$  and  $0.5 \leq v \leq 20$ ; the crystal structure being TbCu<sub>2</sub> type; spilling the molten alloy on a quenching roll or rolls which rotate at a peripheral speed of 20-45 m/sec., annealing the flaky powder thus obtained in an inert atmosphere at a temperature of 500-900°C, and then nitriding the annealed powder.

11. A process for preparing a flaky, isotropic SmFeN powdery magnet material recited in claim 3, which comprises the steps of combining and melting alloy components to form an alloy composition of the formula, by atomic %:



wherein M<sup>2</sup> is at least one member selected from the group consisting of Si, Nb, Ti, Ga, Al, Ta and C;  $7 \leq x \leq 12$ ,  $0.1 \leq z \leq 1.0$  and  $0.5 \leq v \leq 20$ ; the crystal structure being TbCu<sub>2</sub> type; spilling the molten alloy on a quenching roll or rolls which rotate at a peripheral speed of 20-45 m/sec., annealing the flaky powder thus obtained in an inert

atmosphere at a temperature of 500-900°C, and then nitriding the annealed powder.

12. A process for preparing according to one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the roll-quenching is carried out in argon gas atmosphere of a pressure ranging from 0.0001 Torr to 2 atms.

13. A process for preparing according to one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the roll-quenching is carried out using a quenching roll or rolls made of a metal selected from Cu, a Cr-Cu alloy or a Be-Cu alloy.

14. A bonded magnet made by processing the magnet powder according to one of claims 1 to 8 with a binder to the shape of a magnet.